1196

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

Dong Xoai, Vietnam 1965

McCABE:
"WE CAN'T HOLD 'EM HERE, SLIM – LET'S GO BACK TO THE H.Q. BUILDING."

FALLON:
"RIGHT, MAC... IF IT'S STILL THERE."

WRITTEN BY PAUL LEVITZ ART BY YILDIRAY CINAR

1ST ISSUE VARIANT COVER BY JIM LEE

The Future is NOW!

LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES®

MONTHLY. BEGINNING MAY 2010

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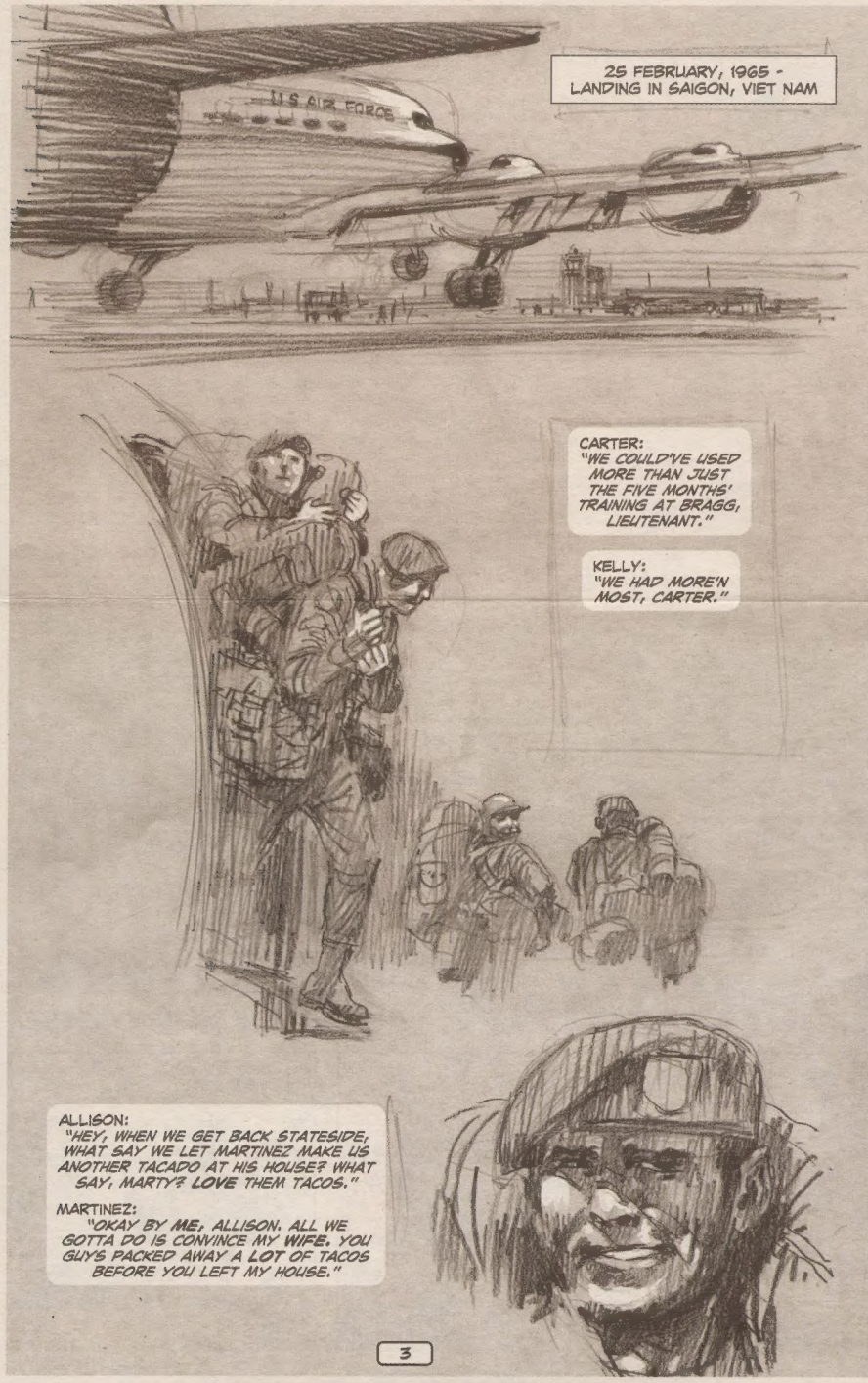
Kubert is GI's Joe

Few comics creators display more admiration and appreciation of United States soldiers than the legendary *Joe Kubert*. As soon as the subject turns to the military, Kubert's tone becomes more serious, more respectful, and at times almost reverent regarding soldiers and the important roles they play.

Kubert's admiration goes beyond speech, though; over the decades, he has produced literally hundreds of stories that display that abiding appreciation for men who undertake the most difficult of all jobs—fighting (and sometimes dying) for their country. His latest graphic novel, ***Dong Xoai, Vietnam 1965*** shares this point of view with his many earlier works—but this time, he's presenting history, not fiction.


25 FEBRUARY, 1965 - LANDING IN SAIGON, VIET NAM
U.S AIR FORCE
CARTER: "WE COULD'VE USED MORE THAN JUST THE FIVE MONTHS' TRAINING AT BRAGG, LIEUTENANT."
KELLY: "WE HAD MORE'N MOST, CARTER."
ALLISON: "HEY, WHEN WE GET BACK STATESIDE, WHAT SAY WE LET MARTINEZ MAKE US ANOTHER TACADO AT HIS HOUSE? WHAT SAY, MARTY? LOVE THEM TACOS."
MARTINEZ: "OKAY BY ME, ALLISON. ALL WE GOTTA DO IS CONVINCE MY WIFE. YOU GUYS PACKED AWAY A LOT OF TACOS BEFORE YOU LEFT MY HOUSE."

How did Kubert become so interested in this particular battle that he made it the subject of a graphic novel? Why Dong Xoai and not one of the many other battles of the Vietnam War? "It wasn't the action so much as the interplay between the men themselves that made this an unforgettable story as far as I'm concerned," Kubert said. "These guys—and all Special Forces people--are exceptional in and of themselves. They're a terrific bunch of guys; I've been lucky enough to meet some of them over the years, and I've learned that these are caring, feeling people who don't view themselves as heroes. And that's the way it was for these Special Forces soldiers. This team of twelve men found themselves in a situation that was life-threatening, to say the least. How they responded to that situation is what struck me—the interplay between them, the way they took care of one another."

The battle of Dong Xoai was the largest battle of the June 1965 winter-spring offensive. Kubert's retelling of those events isn't a dry story of battle lines and territory: it's a story of heroic Special Forces soldiers and Seabees who fought against overwhelming odds. In ***Dong Xoai***, Kubert presents the antithesis to *Stephen Crane's* ***Red Badge of Courage***. Rather than succumbing to animal instincts for flight and survival, the Special Forces soldiers in Dong Xoai displayed loyalty, courage, and heroism under the most devastating circumstances.

Kubert stresses, though, that he's not creating a story to support a point of view. "I didn't make up the story of Dong Xoai," Kubert said. "These events happened, and I've tried to portray them as truthfully as I could. But I have to say that what I show here isn't unique; the story of American soldiers in combat is filled with stories of sacrifice and courage like this. I'm sure that no one of us knows how we would act under these given situations— but hopefully we would act the way these guys did rather than the way Henry Fleming did. But as I said, we really don't know until we face that moment."

"It's the courage that these guys displayed that stimulates me to want to illustrate this story—that, and the care and the feelings that they had for one another. No one ran away,—not a single man ran rather than staying to cover his buddy, even though they were in a situation where they knew that staying could be deadly. They stayed, even when the indigenous people of the area ran away; they were given a job and they stayed. Every one of these guys were wounded, and some were killed, but *not a single man ran away*. That really affected me, and it was something that I wanted to tell."

Kubert's research for ***Dong Xoai*** went far beyond history books and combat records. "I describe ***Dong Xoai*** as 'based on a true incident,' and it's not a work of fiction—it's a true story. These men were real. I worked with a retired colonel, *Bill Stokes*, who was in charge of this whole outfit. He was kind enough to work with me, supplied me with hundreds of photographs of the guys he served with and the situations he found himself in; the memories and material that he shared made the graphic novel possible."

While the story itself is true, many of the soldiers' names have been changed in Kubert's retelling of the events of the battle. Why were the names changed? " I followed every incident meticulously, and I initially used their names," Kubert said. "When I finished ***Dong Xoai***, Bill showed it to the surviving guys—I never met any of these

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

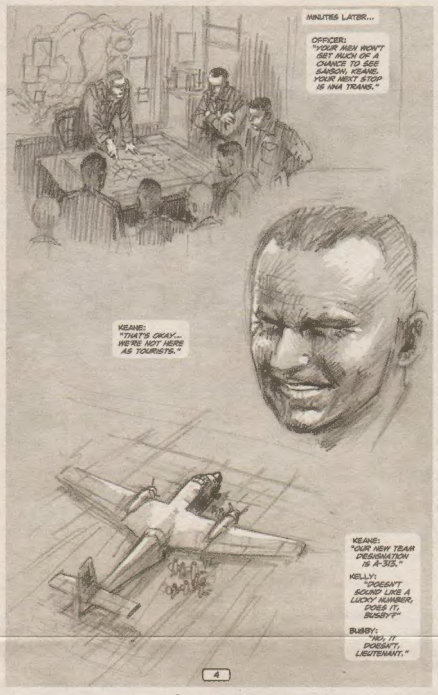
guys other than Bill— and to the families of those who were no longer alive. Bill was keeping in contact with their families and so forth, to let them know what these guys had gone through. When Bill showed the story to the guys who were left, Bill said that they felt that some of the words that I had put in their mouths were not the kind of things they said at the time. They also said that they didn't view themselves as heroes. Ultimately, they decided that they didn't want their names used. That's why the names were changed, and why it's described as 'based on a true story.'"

One thing you won't find in ***Dong Xoai*** or any other Kubert war tale is overt discussions of politics. "I have intentionally avoided politics over the years," Kubert said, "because I don't think it's an important element of the stories I want to tell. When I was in the army, politics was the *last* thing that we talked about! If you're ever in the army, you'll find out that the common ground shared by all soldiers is that you're in a place where you're not particularly happy to be in the first place, but you've been sent there with a job to do. That job's the same regardless of the politicians sitting in Washington or anywhere else. You're trying to do the best job you can in the situation in which you find yourself—you're trying to do your best not only for your own sake, but for the sake of your buddies, since their well-being—their survival—can depend on how well you do your job. And politics doesn't change that. You're focused on the situation around you, and the guys near you who are in the same situation. You watch out for yourself and for the guy next to you, and you're not really concerned about politics in that situation. And while I've never been in actual battle in my own military experience, I imagine that in combat situations, these relationships become even *more* vital and politics seems even *less* important."

There are moments in ***Dong Xoai*** that are strongly reminiscent of memorable events in *Robert Kanigher & Joe Kubert's* classic Sgt. Rock stories—but Kubert stresses that while those Sgt. Rock tales were fictional, the actions he portrays in this graphic novel occurred just as presented. "Bob Kanigher was, in my estimation, one of the best in the business," Kubert said. "My relationship with him over the years, illustrating what he wrote, was one of the best experiences that I had. It's interesting that you bring it up, though. I think that one of Bob's strengths was that he could create scenes that seemed believable and real, and he did that quite often in those Sgt. Rock stories. The difference between Sgt. Rock and real life is that real life doesn't always wrap up so neatly, and everyone doesn't always pull through. If this had been a work of fiction, there are characters I would have wanted to survive... but in real life, good men die, and nothing we can do will change that.

"The question has been asked why I didn't dramatize the situations in ***Dong Xoai*** more in terms of the dialogue and text—why was I sort of laid back? Again, that's the difference between fiction and reality. I tried to stay with the story that was told to me as much as I possibly could. I didn't want to dramatize it any more than was essential for the graphic novel; I wanted this to feel as if you were getting the story from the point of view of a combat journalist, not as if you were reading a dramatic war story."

That desire to give this book a journalistic feel influenced Kubert artistically as well, both in his manner of illustration and in his narrative structure (Kubert chose to use a script-like dialogue format rather than traditional word balloons). "My approach to the story as a whole was one to engender a feeling of immediacy, a feeling that this is what's happening right now. To convey that feeling, I did the drawings in pencil rather than in ink or in color so that I could more effectively communicate to the reader that I'm playing the part of a combat reporter or a combat artist. You're looking at these drawings as if I were illustrating things as I saw them happening right now. I'm trying to include that feeling in the dialogue and the text, too. I didn't want to use traditional word balloons, because I didn't want readers to feel they were they reading these events in a comic, but that they were seeing it through my eyes. I'm recording it as it happened."


MINUTES LATER...
OFFICER: "YOUR MEN WON'T GET MUCH OF A CHANCE TO SEE SAIGON, KEANE. YOUR NEXT STOP IS NHA TRANG."
KEANE: "THAT'S OKAY... WE'RE NOT HERE AS TOURISTS."
KEANE: "YOUR NEW TEAM DESIGNATION IS A-302."
KELLY: "DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A LUCKY NUMBER, DOES IT, BUSBY?"
BUSBY: "NO, IT DOESN'T, LIEUTENANT."
4

The visual look of ***Dong Xoai*** is deceptive; at first glance, it has an almost sketchbook-like quality, but it quickly becomes obvious that what appear to be unrelated sketches on the same page actually flow together in narrative fashion. Even though there are no traditional panel borders, the sketches function as panels in a larger narrative tale. "I put a lot of planning into that," Kubert said. "These are sketches, but they're also a story. We are people who work in still pictures. What the cartoonist attempts to convey is a feeling of movement. We're *storytellers;* we want to give the impression of visual movement and flow to the reader.

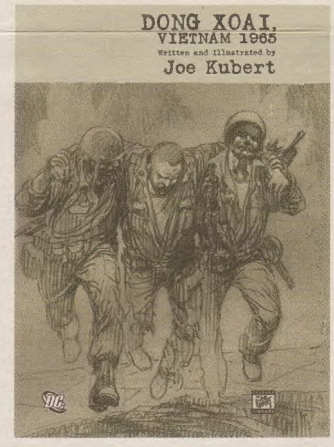
"If we pace our story correctly, we can give that impression, allowing the reader to supply the pictures and the movement between the art that's on the page. That's the crux of what a cartoonist has to do. We're taking still pictures and trying to convey to the reader that these are real happenings, and it's important to tell the story with a proper visual flow so that the reader follows the story through the pictures as well as through the words."

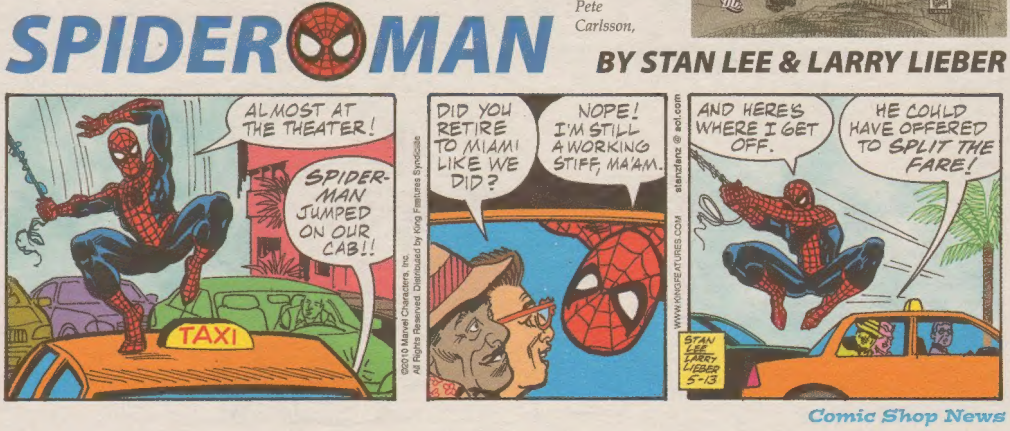
Underscoring that sketchbook-like feel is the shading of each page: the pencil art is laid on a grayish-tone with white accents that add dimension and visual emphasis. How did Kubert accomplish this? Did he illustrate on toned paper? "No, the book was done on white paper; rather than using bristol board or some other heavy art paper, I drew ***Dong Xoai*** on regular standard-weight stationery paper. Then I worked with *Pete Carlsson,* who's like my right-hand man--a terrific guy who does magic with computers and scanners. What Pete did with the sketches was ingenious. As I said, I had done them on plain paper, with highlights in white paint. Well, Pete put a black board under the paper, which was slightly translucent because it was standard weight paper; so, when he scanned the illustrations in with the black board behind them, it gave the look of a grayish paper, sort of a newsprint-like feel. The gray area is really the black showing through under the scanning light."

Dong Xoai is the latest addition to the growing Joe Kubert Library imprint at DC—an imprint that includes ***Sgt. Rock: The Prophecy,*** three volumes of ***Tor Archives,*** and ***Tor: A Prehistoric Odyssey.*** The line continues with next month's release of ***Viking Prince by Joe Kubert,*** collecting the Silver Age tales produced by Kubert with writers *Robert Kanigher & Bob Haney.* Future Joe Kubert Library releases will include books that many fans will be glad to have in print once again. "DC is in the process of reprinting ***Yossel,*** one of my most requested books," Kubert said of the book that presents an alternate look at how his own life might have progressed had his parents not left Poland to come to the United States when he was young. "DC is doing all of my older material, in fact—books like ***Fax from Sarajevo*** and ***Abraham Stone.*** I'm very happy to see all of those books in print again."

Dong Xoai, Vietnam 1965, a $24.99 graphic novel, is available now from DC Comics.

by Cliff Biggers




SPIDER-MAN
BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER
ALMOST AT THE THEATER!
SPIDER-MAN JUMPED ON OUR CAB!!
TAXI
DID YOU RETIRE TO MIAMI LIKE WE DID?
NOPE! I'M STILL A WORKING STIFF, MA'AM.
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AND HERE'S WHERE I GET OFF.
HE COULD HAVE OFFERED TO SPLIT THE FARE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-13

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COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

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The Year of the Bat

2010 is shaping up to be quite a year for DC's Bat-verse. *Grant Morrison* is continuing to make ***Batman & Robin*** a must-read title, while bringing the original Batman back into the spotlight in ***The Return of Bruce Wayne***. *Christopher Yost* has made ***Red Robin*** a vital part of the line. And later this summer there's another Bat-character who's moving into a starring role.

After a year-long run in the pages of ***Detective Comics, Batwoman*** is about to join the DC line as an ongoing series. While writer *Greg Rucka* has chosen to move on to creator-owned projects, artist *JH Williams III* is staying with the award-nominated series—and in fact, his role will be expanded, as he will become co-writer as well!

"We're all extremely proud of what Batwoman stands for — both as a compelling character and as an icon representative of the diversity we strive for in the DC Universe," DC co-publisher *Dan DiDio* said. "We're grateful to *Greg Rucka* for the excellent work he put into introducing the character. J.H. did a masterful job on the art side during her stint in ***Detective Comics***, so it made this the perfect time to have him step into the dual role of writer and artist. Needless to say, we're very excited to see what this new creative team has in store for the character.

Batwoman will feature both story and art by Williams in its initial arc, with a writing assist from *W. Haden Blackman*. Williams will continue as writer of the second arc as well, although the art will be supplied by ***Madame Xanadu*** artist *Amy Reeder*.

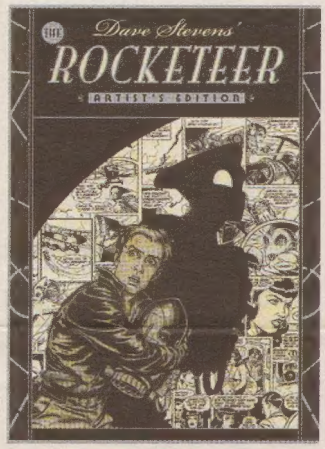
"Our goal is to tell a riveting action adventure tale with some heart and drama to it," Williams said about the upcoming ***Batwoman*** series. "We want the reader to learn even more about who Kate Kane is as Batwoman — showing why she is an important addition to the Bat Family of heroes beyond what has already been addressed. We are also wanting to really make sure we start building additions to her own 'rogues gallery.' Just how will Kate deal with the fallout between her and her father, Jacob? Will Kate be able to find love other than Renee Montoya, a.k.a. The Question? And as far as flavor — there will be a sprinkle of creepy beings, myth and legends, government agency intrigue, and a surprise return of a fan-favorite character.

"This is going to be an amazing opportunity for Haden and me. To say we're excited about this prospect is a bit of an understatement. In addition to this, having the chance to work with Amy will be a real pleasure, her work is fantastic, and I've thought so ever since first encountering it sometime ago."

"I'm very excited to be working on ***Batman***," said Blackman, who has built quite a rep for himself with his work on the ***Star Wars: Galaxies MMO*** and ***The Force Unleashed*** video game. "I have a real affinity for the character. *Jim [Williams III]* and *Greg [Rucka]* have done an amazing job of establishing her as a premiere character in the DC Universe and I'm looking forward to using that as a launching pad to tell all-new stories with her. The opportunity to work with Jim is something we've been talking about for a long time and for me it's really the best job in comics – getting the chance to work with someone who is truly one of the top talents in the industry.

"The thing that really attracts me to Batwoman as a character is her combination of a really strong, personal story and a dark, superheroic one. She has that perfect combination and I'm looking forward to the chance to take some of the classic aspects of vigilante comics and reinterpret them through the lens of this character."

Reeder, who'll join Williams and Blackman for the second arc, is also quite pleased to be a part of the creative team. "To say I'm excited is an huge understatement! *J.H. Williams* has very much inspired me with his ability to rethink the medium, and his work on ***Detective Comics*** has left me awestricken. When I heard I'd get to be involved with the new ***Batwoman*** series, I felt overwhelmed but excited at the challenge of working alongside him on this newly-beloved character. So I'm sure you can imagine how thrilled I was when it turned out he would write the series as well. This leaves me with no choice but to step up my abilities beyond any natural progression. And I can't wait."



A Work of Art

Thought that the popular oversized ***Absolute Editions*** were the final word in comics publishing? Think again! IDW Special Projects Editor *Scott Dunbier* has designed a project that surpasses even those lavish Absolute Editions—and you'll get to see it this summer, when the massive and lavish ***Dave Stevens' Rocketeer Artist's Edition*** sees print.

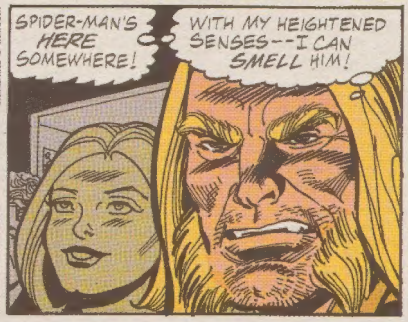
In conjunction with the estate of *Dave Stevens*, IDW is collecting Stevens' ***Rocketeer*** in a mammoth 12" x 17" hardcover book printed in glorious black and white. But it's not your typical black and white book. Nearly every page in ***The Rocketeer Artist's Edition*** has been scanned from Stevens' original art to ensure the best possible reproduction and highest degree of accuracy. Printed on uncoated stock and at the same size as the original art, ***Dave Stevens' The Rocketeer: Artist's Edition*** will be the next best thing to holding Stevens' actual original art in your hands.

"This is the *Dave Stevens* book I've been chomping at the bit to do," Dunbier said. "As an art lover, I can't imagine a finer book on Dave's work."

And forget any earlier reports you might have heard about ultra-limited availability: IDW is making this book available through comic shops! Of course, the production run will be limited, so let the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop know ASAP—and tell 'em that ***Comic Shop News*** sent you!

CSNsider

•DC has added several previously-unannounced variants to their ***Brightest Day*** family of titles. The new variants include a 1:25 cover by *Alex Garner* for ***Green Lantern #54;*** a 1:25 cover by *Doug Mahnke*



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for ***Green Lantern #55;*** a 1:25 cover by *Patrick Gleason* for ***Green Lantern Corps #48;*** a 1:25 cover by *Patrick Gleason* for ***Green Lantern Corps #49;*** a 1:10 cover by *David Mack* for ***Justice League of America #45;*** and a 1:10 cover by *Francis Manapul* for ***Justice League of America #46.***

•Alas, DC has cancelled the previously-announced ***Showcase Presents Suicide Squad Volume 1 TP.*** The material will be resolicited at a later date in a different format.

•***Superman: Secret Origins*** fans are going to have a wait a little bit longer for the final issue of the series; #6 has been pushed back to early July.

•***Bayou Volume 2*** has been cancelled; the title will be rescheduled at a later date.

•Marvel has cancelled the variant cover for ***Amazing Spider-Man Presents American Son #1.***

•And speaking of cancelling covers—you may have noticed that ***Wizard Magazine*** cancelled the comic book cover for #225 a few weeks ago. Well, they're also cancelling the comics cover for #226, due out next week, so don't be dismayed when the Jonah Hex movie cover is the only cover you can find!

•*Todd Martinez* has been tapped as Image Comics' new Sales and LIcensing Director, replacing *Joe Keatinge*, who has chosen to pursue freelance opportunities (you might remember Keatinge's award-winning work as co-editor of ***Popgun,*** for instance...).

•*Micha Hershman* has been tapped as vice president of marketing at Dark Horse, replacing *Anita Nelson*, who is moving into the position of vice president of business affairs.

•Marvel Assistant Manager, Marketing Communications *Jim McCann* left his staff position in early May to focus on his writing career. You'll see his credits not only in various Marvel projects, but also in the creator-owned ***Return of the Dapper Men*** from Archaia, due out this fall.

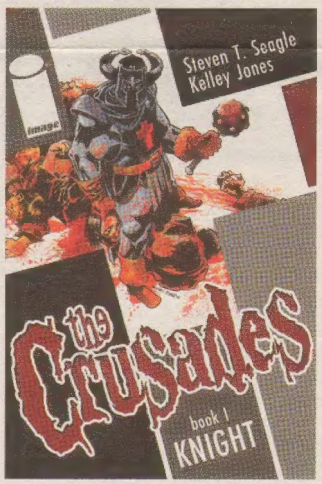
•Miss the change to bring the DCU into your role-playing? Well, Green Ronin has the solution! Beginning in late summer, the publisher will launch their first ***DC Adventures RPG*** volume, ***DC Adventures Hero's Handbook,*** which will be followed in the fall by ***DC Adventures: Heroes and Villains Volume 2.*** The next volumes, ***Heroes and Villains Volume 2*** and ***DC Adventures: Universe,*** are slated for 2011 release. The game will be based on Green Ronin's award-winning ***Mutants and Masterminds*** RPG system.

•*Peter O'Donnell*, the author who created ***Modesty Blaise,*** passed away on May 3rd at the age of 90. O'Donnell not only wrote thirteen Modesty Blaise novels, but he also wrote the comic strip (illustrated by *Jim Holdaway)* that ran from 1963 until 2001. Titan has collected the strips in seventeen paperback volumes, with more collections in the works.

Seagle & Jones, Dustjacketed Crusaders

Steven T Seagle & Kelley Jones began their Crusade almost a decade ago a Vertigo—a Crusade that came to an end after twenty issues. But now they're crusading once again at Image, where the entire series will be collected in two remastered hardcovers.

"This material has been out of print for about a decade, but -- dealing with church scandals, shady land deals, shock media and social justice -- it remains creepily relevant in its themes," Seagle said. "I get asked at every convention if the series will ever be collected, and now I can finally say 'yes' in a big way."



"We've really gone back in and made a great book even better for this edition," Jones added. "We've redesigned everything, produced new covers, corrected some typos, heightened the color effects, upgraded the paper -- this quirky book was mostly missed the first time around, but it is *not* to be missed this time!"

"This is fantastic work by Steve and Kelley that deserves a top flight collection and the vast new audience this two-volume set will attract," Image publisher *Eric Stephenson* said.

The story begins when an enigmatic 11th century Knight begins to render terrible justice on the citizens of 21st century San Francisco. His acts of unspeakable violence spark a firestorm of moral soul-searching in the hearts and minds of the city's most colorful figures. Putting together the pieces of the Knight's mysteriously brutal puzzle is the voluptuous Venus Kostopikas, a fact checker for a dying newspaper who has aspirations to rise above her station and lead her own crusade.

The Crusades Volume 1: Knight HC, a full-color 256-page remastered volume compiling ***The Crusades: Urban Decree*** and ***The Crusades #s 1-9,*** is slated for early July release.

Back to Press

•***Invincible Iron Man #25 2nd Printing*** (MAR108067), in stores 6/4.

•***X-Factor #204 2nd Printing*** (MAR108018), in stores this week.

•***X-Force #26 2nd Printing*** (MAR108067), in stores 5/26.

•***X-Men Legacy #235 2nd Printing*** (MAR108019), in stores this week.

Half-Century Old New Simon & Kirby

It may sound like a contradiction in terms, but that's just what readers will find in editor *Steve Saffel's* ***The Simon & Kirby Superheroes,*** a 480-page hardcover slated for fall release. One the gems featured in this massive collection is a Stuntman story, "Stuntman Crowns a Jungle Lord," which never saw print due to the cancellation of ***Stuntman.***

Other rarely seen tales include the Vagabond Prince story "Trapped on Wax" and the Fighting American story "The Mad Inker," both of which are taken from *Joe Simon's* personal files. Even those lucky enough to have a copy of the 1989 Marvel ***Fighting American*** hardcover collection don't have the latter tale, since it was omitted from that collection.

Simon and Kirby Superheroes is more than just a sampler of *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby's* non-Marvel-and-DC work. It will actually include all their non-Marvel-and-DC superhero works, presented in chronological order beginning with ***Prize Comics'*** the Black Owl and continuing through ***Stuntman, The Vagabond Prince, Captain 3-D*** (which includes early *Steve Ditko* work as well), the complete ***Fighting American, The Double Life of Private Strong,*** and ***The Adventures of the Fly.*** The book features striking color restoration by *Harry Mendyk,* and is reproduced in a larger trim-size hardcover so that the Golden Age tales can be reproduced at their originally published Golden Age size.

"YOU LED ME ON FOR YEARS, ERICA! YOU STOLE MY YOUTH!"
"THAT WAS PETTY LARCENY."
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CSN TOP COMICS: JUNE

ACTION COMICS #890

Paul Cornell (W); Pete Woods (A)

(DC APR100176 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Metropolis, get ready for the return of Lex Luthor. But this is a Luthor unlike anything that Metropolis has known before... a Luthor who has tasted the power that goes with being an Orange Lantern. Now he wants that power back!

Why Should You Care?

Paul Cornell makes his ***Action Comics*** debut with a tale that focuses on Superman's long-time adversary. Luthor may be the star of this book, but it's fair to say he most definitely *isn't* the hero...

AVENGERS ACADEMY #1

Christos Gage (W); Mike McKone (A)

(Marvel APR100550 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Hank Pym, one of the founding members of the Avengers, takes on the responsibility of preparing the next generation of heroes, with the assistance of several former teammates. And just wait 'til you meet the six members of the inaugural class!

Why Should You Care?

Christos Gage & Mike McKone kick off a multigenerational approach to Marvel's most popular franchise with the addition of a junior varsity team led by some of the Avengers' all-star players.

AVENGERS PRIME #1 (OF 5)

Brian Bendis (W); Alan Davis (A)

(Marvel APR100559 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

They were friends, teammates, and comrades in arms through the Avengers' glory days, but the events of ***Civil War*** split them asunder. What can bring them back together again? You're about to find out!...

Why Should You Care?

How do we get from the end of ***Siege*** to the beginning of ***Avengers #1?*** You'll find out in this compelling five-parter that fills in the gaps.

BATMAN #700

Grant Morrison (W); Tony Daniel, Andy Kubert, & Frank Quitely (A)

(DC APR100131 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Batman of three different eras—Bruce Wayne, Dick Grayson, and Damian Wayne—get their moment in the spotlight in this extra-length special issue.

Why Should You Care?

It reunites *Grant Morrison* with artists *Tony Daniel, Andy Kubert, and Frank Quitely*—what more reason do you need?

BATMAN AND ROBIN #13

Grant Morrison (W); Frazer Irving (A)

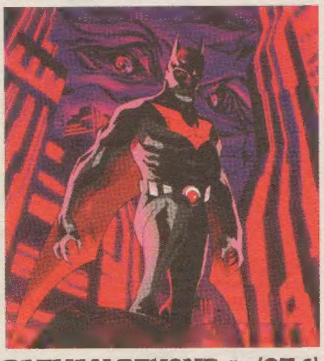
(DC APR100165 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Thomas Wayne - a man believed murdered over 20 years ago - has returned with an incredible tale to tell, and he's claiming the entire Wayne fortune. Now he's demanding that Bruce Wayne must return if Bruce wishes to oppose the claim... but that's a problem, as readers of ***The Return of Bruce Wayne*** already know!

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison continues to link all his seemingly-separated Batman projects, revealing that all those plot-threads were part of a much larger tapestry that no one else could see... until now!



BATMAN BEYOND #1 (OF 6)

Adam Beechen (W); Ryan Benjamin (A)

(DC APR100163 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

An elderly Bruce Wayne is joined by Terry McGinness to protect Neo-Gotham. But when someone targets The Dark Knight's old foes, the new Batman must begin a case that reaches back into Bruce Wayne's past and puts Terry's future directly in danger!

Why Should You Care?

Fans have asked for a DCU version of ***Batman Beyond*** for years, and now they're getting a double scoop, what with the kick-off issue of a new six-part miniseries *and* a ***Superman/Batman Annual*** by *Paul Levitz & Renato Guedes* that also features Batman Beyond characters!

BATMAN: THE RETURN OF BRUCE WAYNE #3 (OF 6)

Grant Morrison (W); Yanick Paquette 9A)

(DC APR100159 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Ahoy, matey! The Dark Knight hits the high seas during the era of swashbuckling piracy as Bruce Wayne's chrono-odyssey continues.

Why Should You Care?

Only *Grant Morrison* could find a way to weave together Silver Age concepts and all those anachronistic Batman adventures into a compelling story that redefines DCU continuity!

GREEN ARROW #1 (BRIGHTEST DAY)

JT Krul (W); Diogenes Neves (A)

(DC APR100143 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Green Arrow always had to deal with inevitable comparisons to Robin Hood—but now that he's making his home in the heavily forested center of Star City, the comparisons seem more apt than ever before!

Why Should You Care?

In the aftermath of ***Cry for Justice*** and ***The Fall of Green Arrow,*** Oliver Queen finds himself charged with a new role as he faces new adversaries—including the forces of his former company Queen Industries!

NEIL YOUNG'S GREENDALE HC

Joshua Dysart (W); Cliff Chiang (A)

(Vertigo/DC FEB100245 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

Set in 2003 against the backdrop of the early months of the Iraq War, a politically active young girl finds her life in a small California town of Greendale changed when a mysterious stranger comes to town, launching an odyssey both mystical and mythical.

"ERICA, AREN'T THERE THREE WORDS YOU WANT TO TELL ME?"
"YES. 'YOU'RE SMOTHERING ME'!"
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Why Should You Care?

Joshua Dysart creates a complex rite of passage tale set against he backdrop of one of music legend *Neil Young's* most provocative concept albums.

NEW AVENGERS #1

Brian Bendis (W); Stuart Immonen (A)
(Marvel APR100553 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

With the A-Team members joining the ranks of the Avengers, who's filling out the roster of the New Avengers? Find out which heroes have signed on to face threats too dark, too dangerous, and too bizarre for any other team of heroes.

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis is determined to give each Avengers team its own roster, its own character, and its own distinctive mission, avoiding the cookie-cutter-superteam approach that weakens so many superteam franchises

RED TIDE: CHANDLER GN

Jim Steranko (W/A)
(Dark Horse FEB100022 $19.99)

What's the Scoop?

Meet Chandler, an old-school private detective operating in a noir world inspired by the writings of *Dashiell Hammett* and *Raymond Chandler*, in this 128-page visual novel.

Why Should You Care?

Jim Steranko, an innovator from the beginning of his Marvel career, blended the traditional novel and the comic book in this distinctive (and long-out-of-print) work. Now it's not only available again, but it's reworked and improved by Steranko himself, along with the addition of digital color by Eisner Award winner *Dave Stewart*.

ROYAL HISTORIAN OF OZ #1

Tommy Kovac (W); Andy Hirsch (A)
(Amaze Ink APR100711 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Frank Fizzle wishes his writer father would have had a single original idea, rather than devoting himself to writing new Oz stories. Then the failed writer discovers that Oz really exists—and that an error in judgment results in his being considered a criminal in two worlds. Can Frank save the day and redeem the Fizzle family name, or will the drizzly ghost of the Wicked Witch of the West destroy them all?

Why Should You Care?

Kovacs and Hirsch present a clever metafictional look at the world of Oz in this lively series—and they're offering the first issue at a bargain price to encourage everyone to give it a try!

SERENITY FLOAT OUT ONE SHOT #1

Patton Oswalt (W); Patric Reynolds (A)
(Dark Horse APR100026 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Always ready with a brilliant aerial maneuver and a terrible one-liner, Wash was pilot of the Firefly-class ship ***Serenity*** in *Joss Whedon's* cult-classic... and then he was killed off in the ***Serenity*** film. Now he's back in a trio of three brand-new stories of Wash in a series of exciting smuggling raids, each providing a hair-raising escape or daring last-minute rescue.

Why Should You Care?

Dark Horse's prior ***Serenity*** related projects have been sleeper hits thanks to the series' devoted fan following, and you can be sure that they'll be lining up for copies of this one, too—particularly when they find out who makes a surprise cameo!

STARGATE: DANIEL JACKSON #1

Doug Murray (W); John Watson (A)
(Dynamite APR100908 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Resident ***Stargate*** bad boy Daniel Jackson heads off on a solo adventure in this limited series that takes him to a seemingly primitive planet... but appearances can be deceiving!

Why Should You Care?

Dynamite offers some of the most popular members of the ***Stargate*** cast their own moment in the spotlight in these limited series—and that's sure to appeal to fans who never felt that these characters got enough solo screen time!

SUPERMAN #700

J. Michael Straczynski, James Robinson, & Dan Jurgens (W); Eddy Barrows, Dan Jurgens, Bernard Chang, & JP Mayer (A)
(DC APR100128 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

DC celebrates the Man of Steel past, present, and future in this collection of three tales that marks the end of one chapter in Superman's saga and the beginning of another.

Why Should You Care?

The real draw for this issue is the chance to find out just what *J. Michael Straczynski* has in store for the Man of Steel—and it's definitely *not* more of the status quo!

TOM STRONG AND THE ROBOTS OF DOOM #1 (OF 6)

Peter Hogan (W); Chris Sprouse (A)
(WildStorm/DC APR100243 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Tom Strong and his family prepare to celebrate Tesla's wedding when the unthinkable happens: before their eyes, reality shifts, giving way to a world conquered by the Nazis and ruled by Tom's nefarious son Albrecht!

Why Should You Care?

Sure, we all wish we could get new Tom Strong stories by *Alan Moore*—but barring that, WildStorm gives us the next best thing, calling on ABC veteran storyteller *Peter Hogan* and ***Tom Strong*** co-creator *Chris Sprouse* to do the honors.

WONDER WOMAN #600

J. Michael Straczynski, Geoff Johns, Gail Simone, & others (W); George Perez, Phil Jimenez, Joe Madureira, and others (A)
(DC APR100134 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

DC commemorates six hundred issue of Wonder Woman excitement with this book featuring a look at the Amazing Amazon's past, present, and future.

Why Should You Care?

Fan-favorites from ***Wonder Woman's*** past return to celebrate this landmark issue (and the return of legacy numbering), *Gail Simone* wraps up her run with a poignant finale, and *J. Michael Straczynski* offers the first glimpse into his plans for a new direction for the Wonder Woman Universe.

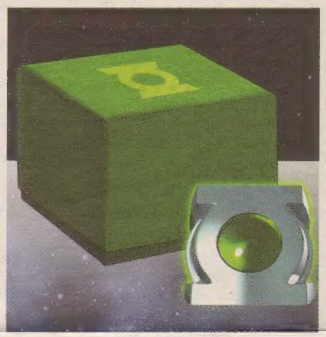
Hot Commodities:

June's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

60TH ANNIVERSARY CLASSIC PEANUTS CHARLIE BROWN STATUE

(Dark Horse MAR100146 $49.99)

This syroco-style statue is based on *Charles Schulz's* original, much simpler depictions of Charlie Brown from 1950, the year he was first introduced to the comic-strip-reading world.



GREEN LANTERN HONOR GUARD RING PROP REPLICA

(DC Direct NOV090266 $35.00)

No plastic ring here—this is a silver metal replica of the ring worn by the exclusive Honor Guard of the Green Lantern Corps, packaged in a two-part box foil-stamped with the Green Lantern logo.

JLA TROPHY ROOM: BATMAN MODERN UTILITY BELT REPLICA

(DC Direct NOV090260 $350.00)

It won't hold your pants up, but it certainly will look great on display with your other bat-collectibles. This replica display includes a faux-leather belt with eight working pouches, Batman logo emblem buckle, metal display shelf, and mounting hardware.

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Check 'Em Out:
Books You *Should* Be Reading

CAPTAIN AMERICA 1940S NEWSPAPER STRIP #1
(Marvel APR100568 $3.99)
Don't remember this strip? Well, there's a good reason—it didn't exist until now! Karl Kesel presents a faux-retro 1940's daily newspaper comic strip starring Captain America.!

COMIC BOOK COMICS #5
(Evil Twin APR100977 $3.95)
Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey prove that comic book reality can be every bit as entertaining as comic book fiction. This issue focuses on some of the industry's most memorable lawsuits, including DC vs. Fawcett, Disney vs. the Air Pirates, Jack Kirby vs. Marvel over his stolen artwork, Steve Gerber over Howard the Duck, Don De Carlo over Josie and the Pussycats, and the all-out war over the rights to Miraleman.

DETECTIVE COMICS #866
(DC APR100167 $3.99)
How could comics fans be so lucky? This month, Bat-legend *Dennis O'Neil* returns to the Batcave in this stand-alone, 40-page issue—and next month, we get *Neal Adams* back for a Batman limited series. (Now, if they'd only work together on a project, we'd be in Bat-nirvana!)

FRINGE: TALES FROM THE FRINGE #1 (OF 6)
(WildStorm/DC APR100253 $3.99)
After a year-and-a-half-long *Fringe* comic book drought, WildStorm quenches our thirst for more *Fringe* tales with this six-issue miniseries. In the first story, Peter Bishop is forced to choose between doing the right thing—saving a troubled young man pressed into service as a suicide bomber—or scoring a dream job.

GOD SOMEWHERE TP
(WildStorm/DC MAR100276 $24.99)
John Arcudi & Peter Snejbjerg present an insightful superhero tragedy in this original graphic novel. After a mysterious disaster, a young man named Eric finds that he has developed extraordinary abilities. He starts out trying to help people, but his solitary position in the world isolates him in ways no ordinary human could understand. Part *Philip Wylie*, part *Robert A. Heinlein*, this novel reminds us that being superhuman also means being "not human" in the eyes of some.

JONAH HEX: NO WAY BACK HC
(DC JAN100270 $19.99)
Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti enlist legendary *Jonah Hex* artist *Tony DeZuniga* for this original graphic novel that delves into Hex's enigmatic past.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #46 (BRIGHTEST DAY)
(DC APR100149 $3.99)
James Robinson & Mark Bagley kick off a five-part JLA/JSA crossover that spans both titles—but Bagley and Robinson will be writing and illustrating all five parts! (Come on—is there any other artist working on comics today who could take on a project like this and get it out on time?)

ROBERT E HOWARD'S HAWKS OF OUTREMER #1 (OF 4)
(Boom APR100830 $3.99)
Adapting the adventures of *Robert E. Howard's* Cormac FitzGeoffrey, a barbarian hero whose literary exploits predate Howard's Conan. This is story of barbaric conflict and vengeance sure to appeal to fans of REH's legendary Cimmerian.

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #94
(TwoMorrows APR101195 $7.95)
"Earth-Two Companion, Part II" offers more insight into the DC's multiple earths concepts, focusing on such characters as the Huntress, Power Girl, Dr. Fate, the Freedom Fighters, and more.

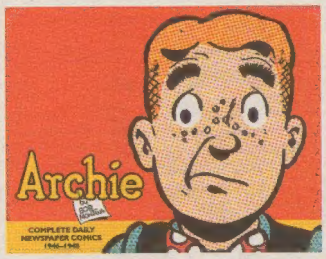
CARMINE INFANTINO: PENCILER, PUBLISHER, PROVOCATEUR HC/SC
(TwoMorrows APR101099 $46.95)
(TwoMorrows APR101098 $26.95)
Spotlighting the life and career of the legendary Flash artist who went on to become one of DC's most influential publishers, uncovering details about the comics industry never made public until now.

COVER RUN: THE DC COMICS ART OF ADAM HUGHES HC
(DC FEB100180 $39.99)
The best covers by Eisner Award winner *Adam Hughes* are spotlighted in this lavish hardcover that also includes rarely seen preliminary material and more.

CREATORS OF THE SUPERHEROES DELUXE SC
(Hermes APR101209 $39.99)
Learn the true story of the creation of most important superheroes in comics, including Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, and others.

CEREBUS GUIDE TO SELF-PUBLISHING EXPANDED EDITION
(Aardvark-Vanaheim APR100706 $18.00)
Out of print for years, Dave Sim's self-publishing guide is back. This isn't your typical guide, though; instead, it's a book that explores the work habits you'll need to succeed in today's market, along with a look at the pros and cons of the computer revolution that continues to rock the publishing world.

WATCHMEN AS LITERATURE SC
(McFarland APR101215 $47.00)
Better late than never, this book presents an exploration the graphic novel's reception in both popular and scholarly arenas, viewing it as both archetype and allegory.



Collected Cool: June's Best Reprint Volumes

ARCHIE CLASSIC NEWSPAPER COMICS HC VOL 1
(IDW APR100396 $39.99)
Reprinting the earliest Bob Montana strips from 1946-1948.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS ATLAS ERA STRANGE TALES HC VOL 3
(Marvel JAN100647 $59.99)

Collects ***Strange Tales #s 21-30***, featuring work by *Stan Lee, Joe Maneely, Joe Sinnott, Bill Everett, Gene Colan, John Buscema, Carmine Infantino, Bernie Krigstein,* and others.

VIKING PRINCE BY JOE KUBERT HC
(DC FEB100199 $39.99)
Collects classic tales by *Robert Kanigher, Bob Haney, & Joe Kubert* from ***Brave & Bold #s 1-5, 7-20,*** and ***Our Army at War #s 162-163.***

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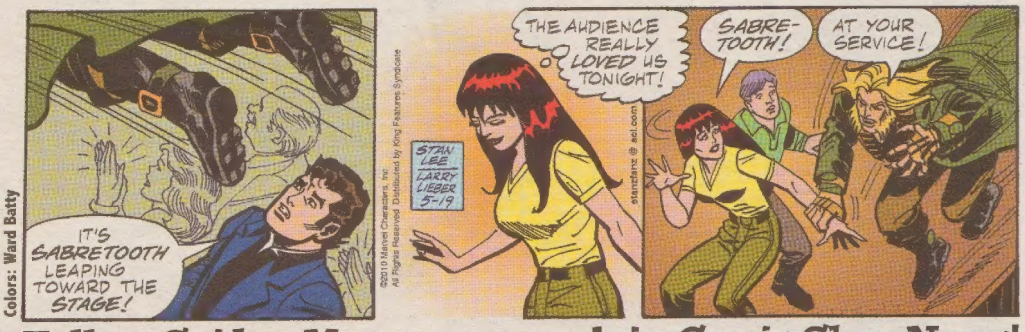
Colors: Ward Batty
IT'S SABRETOOTH LEAPING TOWARD THE STAGE!
THE AUDIENCE REALLY LOVED US TONIGHT!
SABRE-TOOTH!
AT YOUR SERVICE!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 5-19
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